

Message Text

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SUBJ: WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE

1. SUMMARY: ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY A DECISION RECOMMENDING TO THE 28TH GA THE CONVENING OF WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE (WFC) IN 1974 UNDER THE AUSPICES OF UN. SOME 15 DELEGATIONS COMMENTED ON THE RES, STATING SUPPORT OR RESERVATIONS, IN THE COUNCIL'S ECONOMIC COMMITTEE PRIOR TO THE COUNCIL'S APPROVAL. THE MOST CONSEQUENTIAL RESERVATIONS WAS STATED BY USSR AND POLAND WHO EXPRESSED CONCERN REGARDING FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION AND LAMENTED THAT THE DECISION HAD BEEN TAKEN SO HASTLY. USSR ALSO WISHES LINK WFC TO ROB.
END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING FULL DAY OF CAUCAUSING, A DRAFT DECISION ACCEPTABLE TO THE MOST INTERESTED DELGATIONS ON THE CONVOCAION OF A WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE WAS COMPLETED. IN ADDITION TO THE US DELEGATIONS, THE MOST ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS WERE INDIA, YUGOSLAVIA, ALGERIA, PAKISTAN THE DRAFT DECISION, QUOTED BELOW, WAS INTRODUCED TO THE COUNCIL ECONOMIC COMMITTEE BY ITS CHAIRMAN, AMBASSADOR KARHILO. THE DECISION WAS ACCEPTED AFTER SEVERAL INTERVENTION DESCRIBED BELOW.

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3. THE DRAFT DECISION READS AS FOLLOWS:

BEGIN QUOTE

THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL DECIDES:

1. TO RECOMMEND TO THE 28TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THE CONVENING OF A WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE IN 1974 UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE UNITED NATIONS;

2. TO INVITE THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE REMARKS OF THE COMPETENT ORGANIZATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM, TO SUBMIT TO THE 28TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THROUGH THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL, A REPORT ON THE CONVENING OF THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE;

3. TO INVITE THE GOVERNING BODIES OF THE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEMS, AS APPROPRIATE, TO CONSIDER THIS QUESTION AS A MATTER OF PRIORITY AND TO SUBMIT THEIR REPORTS THROUGH THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL.
END QUOTE

4. PRIOR TO THE ADOPTION OF THE DECISION BY THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE, INTERVENTION WERE MADE BY CANADA, IN SUPPORT OF THE DECISION AND INDICATING THAT IT WISHED TO TAKE ACTIVE PART IN PREPARATORY CONSULTATIONS FOR THE CONFERENCE. THE FINISH REP SUPPORTED THE DECISION AND WFC UNRESERVEDLY INDICATING THAT THE WFC SHOULD PROBABLY HAVE PRIORITY ABOVE ALL OTHER CONFERENCES IN 1974. NEW ZEALAND, IN A SUPPORTIVE STATEMENT, INDICATED ITS WISH THAT THE WFC BE CONVENED AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE IN 1974. THE SWEDISH AND PAKISTANI REPS MADE BRIEF SUPPORTING STATEMENTS.

5. THE ALGERIAN REP NOTED THAT THE WFC SITUATION HAD BEEN A CENTRAL CONCERN OF THE 4TH NAC AND URGED THAT THE CONFERENCE BE CONVENED ASAP. BRAZIL DESCRIBED THE US INITIATIVE AS APPROPRIATE; BUT SAID THAT THE PROBLEMS OF SUPPLY AND DEMAND OF FOOD MUST BE LINKED IN WFC
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TO PARALLEL GLOBAL PROBLEMS OF FOOD PRICES, TARIFFS AND OTHER COMMERICAL PROBLEMS. HE STATED HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT THE COUNCIL DECISION WOULD NOT PREJUDICE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE CONFERENCE.

6. MAKEYEV (USSR) LAMENTED THAT DECISION WAS ABOUT TO BE TAKEN IN HASTE WITHOUT COMPLETE DEBATE, CONSULTATIONS. HE STATED SEVERAL TIMES, THAT THE DECISION TO BE TAKEN

MUST BE REGARDED AS PURELY PROCEDURAL. HE STRESSED THAT A FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS DOCUMENT WOULD BE REQUIRED.

7. THE SECRETARIAT THEN INFORMED THAT THE DRAFT DECISION HAS NO FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS.

8. THE DECISION WAS THEN ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY. SUBSEQUENT TO THAT THE NETHERLANDS, FRANCE, DENMARK AND SPAIN INDICATED THAT THEY WOULD RESERVE THEIR COMMENTS TO THE SECOND COMMITTEE.

9. MAKEYEV INTERVENED ONCE AGAIN TO STATE THAT HE HAD NO OBJECTIONS TO THE PROCEDURAL PARTS OF THE DECISION TO CONVENE WFC HAD BEEN MADE IN HASTE AND THAT THE USSR WOULD RESERVE ITS POSITION ON THIS AND THE SUBSTANCE OF WFC UNTIL TIME WAS CONSIDERED IN GA. HE REITERATED THAT THE WFC SHOULD BE LINKED TO ROB.

10. POLAND SAID THAT IT HAD NOT OBJECTED TO ESSENCE OF ORIGINAL US RES OR TO IDEA OF CONVOKING OF WFC. HOWEVER, IT SHARED THE USSR VIEW THAT THE DECISION HAD BEEN TAKEN IN HASTE AND WITHOUT TAKING INTO ACCOUNT ITS FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS.

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